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ACTION: Amembassy AMMAN

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JOINT STATE-DEFENSE

London's 2350 and 2358 to Department; Deptel 2598 to London

If King or Khammash approach Embassy re supersonics, you should be guided by following:

1. French and British ~~have~~ have made offers to sell supersonics to Jordan. From reports available ~~to US~~ seems clear ~~that the~~ costs are beyond ~~the capability of~~ current GOJ funding ~~not supported by the~~ UAC.
2. If Jordan has exhausted bargaining for lower cost and improved terms for aircraft with ~~the~~ UK and France, it is our view that their next step should be to seek UAC concurrence to proposition that (a) either UAC provide more funds for Jordan's purchase of Western European aircraft, or (b) UAC reduce its demands re number of planes (see Para F Deptel 219 to Amman).
3. ~~USG~~ USG believes UAR fully aware nature US-Jordanian relationship and recognizes difficulties posed by UAC's strict alternative of MIG's or Western aircraft at same price. (FYI: Foregoing points were

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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PAGE 1 OF 1

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made to UAR presidential advisor Hassan Sabri al-Khouli recently during private visit Washington. CA 5637 Airgram/pouched Amman. END FYI.) Showdown this issue could force undesirable decisions on USG, effects of which could introduce unmanageable instability in area.

4. Finally, USG has no intention provide either direct or indirect funding Jordanian purchase French or British supersonics. Nor is sale US supersonics contemplated. at present reading.

5. FOR LONDON: In view favorable reports from Jidda to effect ~~that~~ Saudis have opted ~~with mixed~~ for mixed package, what are prospects for pressing UK make Lightning offer to Jordan more attractive? ~~This is question that~~ Davies and Hoopes would like discuss ~~this question~~ with appropriate Embassy and UK officials next week.

JP-3.

END

ENDING

RUSK